

*Claims*

1. Method for treating and/or preventing diarrhoea in mammals which comprises administering to the mammals an effective daily amount of a composition comprising as active component(s) phytosterols and/or pentacyclotriterpenes as present in or derived from Shea oil.
2. Method according to Claim 1 wherein the mammals are weaning piglets or babies.
3. Method according to Claim 1 wherein the phytosterols and/or pentacyclotriterpenes have the natural composition of the shea sterols or shea pentacyclotriterpenes as present in shea olein.
4. Method according to Claim 3 wherein the shea sterols or pentacyclotriterpenes comprise more than 50 wt % of 4,4-dimethylsterols or 4,4-dimethyl pentacyclotriterpenes selected from the group consisting of alpha-amyrin, beta-amyrin, butyrospermol and lupeol.
5. Method according to Claim 1 wherein the phytosterols are the free hydroxysterols.
6. Method according to Claim 1 wherein the effective amount is 0.005 to 5 gram/kg body weight of mammal per day.
7. Method according to Claim 1 wherein the active phytosterols and/or pentacyclotriterpenes are administered as part of the food or feed for the mammal.

8. Method according to Claim 7 wherein the food or the feed contains 0.001 to 85 wt% of the active component.

9. Method according to Claim 1, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of feed products, medicaments and dietary supplements.

10. Method for the preparation of a food or a feed product comprising carbohydrates and proteins wherein the food or feed product has anti-diarrhoea or anti-scouring properties by the incorporation of an effective amount of phytosterols and/or pentacyclotriterpenes as present in or derived from Shea oil as active component.

11. Method according to Claim 10 wherein the food product or the feed product contains 0.001 to 50 wt % of the active component.

12. Method according to Claim 10 wherein the active components are the natural shea sterols, and/or pentacyclotriterpenes.

13. Method according to Claim 12 wherein the shea sterols and/or shea pentacyclotriterpenes comprise at least 50 wt % of 4,4-dimethyl derivatives of shea sterols and/or shea pentacyclotriterpenes selected from the group consisting of alpha-amyrin, beta-amyrin, butyrospermol and lupeol.

14. Animal feed comprising carbohydrates and proteins and 0.001 to 4 wt % of a shea olein comprising 2 to 12 wt % of (shea sterols plus shea pentacyclotriterpenes) or of a concentrate of shea sterols and/or shea pentacyclotriterpenes comprising in total 12.5 to 80 wt % of these components.